

IN THE CLAIMS

The following claim listing replaces all prior claim listings:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of making a master for manufacturing an optical disc comprising:

an exposing step of applying a laser beam for recording, modulated by an information signal corresponding to an information signal of an information concave and convex pattern to be formed on said optical disc, to an inorganic resist layer of said master formed on a substrate to form an exposed pattern corresponding to said information concave and convex pattern of said optical disc, and

after the preceding step a developing step of performing development processing on said inorganic resist layer to form a concave and convex pattern corresponding to said information concave and convex pattern of said inorganic resist layer, wherein

in said exposing step, a laser beam for estimation is applied to a predetermined area on said inorganic resist layer to estimate information signal characteristics of said exposed pattern of said inorganic resist layer using reflected light of the laser beam for estimation, and power of said laser beam for recording is controlled based on the estimated result,

wherein said laser beam for estimation is applied to an unexposed area and an exposed area corresponding to where said laser beam for recording formed a portion of the pattern corresponding to said information concave and convex pattern of said optical disc, and the information signal characteristics of said exposed pattern of said inorganic resist layer are estimated to derive the estimated result using a ratio between reflected light amount from said unexposed area and reflected light amount from said exposed area, with said laser beam for estimation.

2. (Currently Amended) A method of making a master for manufacturing an optical disc according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein said inorganic resist layer is a resist layer containing an incomplete oxide of transition metals.

3. (Previously Presented) A method of making a master for manufacturing an optical disc according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined area irradiated with said laser beam for estimation is an area other than the area irradiated with the laser beam for recording on the inorganic resist layer.

4. (Original) A method of making a master for manufacturing an optical disc according to claim 1, wherein while said laser beam for recording is being applied, said laser beam for estimation is applied to the proximity of the position irradiated with said laser beam for recording.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method of making a master for manufacturing an optical disc according to claim [[5]]1, wherein power of said laser beam for recording is controlled so that said ratio between reflected light amounts is constant.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an optical disc comprising the steps of: making a master for manufacturing the optical disc, making a stamper for manufacturing said optical disc from said master by transfer, manufacturing an optical disc substrate by transfer using said stamper, depositing a reflective film on the optical disc substrate, and depositing a protective film, wherein

the step of making said master includes: an exposing step of applying a laser beam for recording, modulated by an information signal corresponding to an information signal of an information concave and convex pattern to be formed on said optical disc, to an inorganic resist layer of said master formed on the substrate to form an exposed pattern corresponding to the information concave and convex pattern of said optical disc, and after the preceding process, a step of performing development processing to said inorganic resist layer to form a concave and convex pattern corresponding to said information concave and convex pattern of said inorganic

resist layer; and in said exposing step, a laser beam for estimation is applied to a predetermined area on said inorganic resist layer to estimate information signal characteristics of said exposed pattern by said inorganic resist layer from reflected light of the laser beam for estimation, and based on the estimated result, power of said laser beam for recording is controlled,

wherein said laser beam for estimation is applied to an unexposed area and an exposed area corresponding to where said laser beam for recording formed a portion of the pattern corresponding to said information concave and convex pattern of said optical disc, and the information signal characteristics of said exposed pattern of said inorganic resist layer are estimated to derive the estimated result using a ratio between reflected light amount from said unexposed area and reflected light amount from said exposed area, with said laser beam for estimation.

8. (Original) A method of manufacturing an optical disc according to claim 7, wherein said inorganic resist layer is a resist layer containing an incomplete oxide of transition metals.